

REMARKS

Claims 1, 10, 15, 16, 19-22, 25, 26, 29-36, and 38-49 are currently pending in the present application, with Claims 1, 10, 19, 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, 29, 30, 31-36, and 38 being amended in this instance amendment, Claims 11, 17, 18, 23, 24, 27, 28, and 37 being further canceled, and new Claims 39-49 being added. Reexamination and reconsideration of the patents, as amended, are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 10, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, and 31-35 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Obradovich (U.S. Patent No. 6,525,768). The Examiner also objected to Claims 21/1, 11/10, 11/21 [sic?], 19/17, 20/17, 21/17, 25, 26, 29, 30, and 36-38 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have amended the pending rejected claims to incorporate subject matter indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Specifically, Claim 21 has been incorporated into Claim 1, Claim 11 has been incorporated into Claim 10, and Claims 19-21 have been rewritten into independent form (with respect to Claim 21, the previous version of which was incorporated into amended Claim 1; a new claim, Claim 49 is added to incorporate the limitation of the previous version of Claim 10, while Claim 21 itself is amended to incorporate the limitations of the previous version of Claim 17). Furthermore, Applicants have also rewritten Claims 25, 26, 29, 30, and 36-38 to independent form; in cases where there are multiple dependencies (e.g., Claims 36-39), new independent claims have been added to incorporate the limitations of the various base claims. Finally, new Claims 46-48 have been added to replace previously pending Claims 18, 24, and 28, respectively, to accommodate the changing of the claim numbers post amendment.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in immediate condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes it would further advance the prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney of record with any questions the Examiner may have regarding this communication.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 513162000600. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: March 2, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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